

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A porous titanium oxide powder that is formed from titanium oxide primary particles agglomerated together and has a mean particle diameter of 0.01 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , the porous titanium oxide powder having a specific surface area of [[250]] 327 to 500  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ; and

wherein the powder has an approximately spherical shape with the ratio of the minor axis to the major axis being at least 0.75.

2. (original) The porous titanium oxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the titanium oxide primary particles have a mean particle diameter of 1 to 50 nm.

3. (cancel)

4. (previously presented) The porous titanium oxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline form is rutile.

5. (previously presented) The porous titanium oxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline form is anatase.

6. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a spherical shaped porous titanium oxide powder, comprising subjecting a titanium salt solution to hydrolysis by heating under the presence of an aliphatic alcohol and ~~and/or~~ a substance having a carboxyl group or a carbonyl group, and then further carrying out heating treatment with an acid.

7. (currently amended) The method of manufacturing a spherical shaped porous titanium oxide powder ~~according to claim 6,~~ comprising subjecting a titanium salt solution to hydrolysis by heating under the presence of an aliphatic alcohol, wherein the titanium salt solution is hydrolyzed ~~by heating under the presence of an aliphatic alcohol,~~ and then heating treatment with an acid is further carried out.

8. (currently amended) The method of manufacturing a spherical shaped porous titanium oxide powder according to claim 6, wherein the titanium salt solution is hydrolyzed by heating under the presence of an ~~aliphatic~~ polyhydric alcohol and a substance having a carboxyl group or a carbonyl group, and then heating treatment with an acid is further carried out.

9. (cancel)

10. (currently amended) The method of manufacturing a spherical shaped porous titanium oxide powder according to claim [[9]] 8, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is at least one selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,4-butylene glycol, 2,3-butylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, dimethylpropanediol, diethylpropanediol, glycerol, trimethylolpropane, triethylolpropane, erythritol, xylitol, mannitol, sorbitol and maltitol.

11. (cancel)

12. (currently amended) The method of manufacturing a spherical shaped porous titanium oxide powder according to claim 8, wherein the substance having a carboxyl group or a carbonyl group is an aliphatic carboxylic acid or a derivative thereof.

13. (currently amended) The method of manufacturing a spherical shaped porous titanium oxide powder according to claim [[11]] 6, wherein the substance having a carboxyl group or a carbonyl group is acetic acid.

14. (currently amended) The method of manufacturing a spherical shaped porous titanium oxide powder according to claim 6, wherein after the heating treatment with an acid, pH adjustment using an alkali is further carried out.